

# ***Fourth Turning Clash of Inter-Civilization Cultures***

**by**

**Barry L. Clark**

The Citadel, History; Excelsior College, Interdisciplinary Studies; US Army  
Command and General Staff College; Liberty University, Public Policy

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## Thesis Statement

Why did classical liberalism fail to achieve the results its original proponents envisioned? Given the popularity of social liberalism modern liberalism and progressive causes and ideologies, as derivatives and permutations of classical liberalism, one might argue it has not failed in the first place, rather, perhaps it has not yet been fully realized and implemented. But the fact is classical liberalism has failed, as can be conclusively proven, it has failed because it ignored immutable metaphysical laws, the historic reality and an approach to human nature based upon realism. At the end of the road of classical liberalism the West arrived at social liberalism and progressive liberalism which beckon its adherents to seek greater authoritarianism to compel compliance and ultimately reduce individual liberty and increase governmental power.

## **Abstract**

I propose a unified theory of sorts that combines The Strauss–Howe generational theory with a hybrid of Samuel Huntington’s Clash of Civilization’s hypothesis explains in part the observation that the West has not reached the End of History as some propose. Rather, classical liberalism, as expressed through derivative ideologies of progressivism, social liberalism, socialism, and communism, has failed to provide the social order and tranquility that early proponents envisioned. At its core, classical liberalism failed to acknowledge immutable metaphysical laws, the historic reality and an approach to human nature based upon realism.

The overarching intent of this work is to provide an umbrella under which related research will reside that fleshes out specific and more detailed aspects of the larger hypothesis presented above.

**Keywords:** Classical Liberalism; Generational Theory; Metaphysical Reality

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## Introduction

The hypothesis of this thesis is supported by historical evidence and analysis, which is revisionist by necessity, logical and theological analysis of political philosophy, social-historical theories of generations, generation theory, that provide evidence of trends in support of conclusions, philosophical and finally political theory analysis of current ideologies and trends.

The following are placeholder elements of the elements mentioned above. The general concepts of Fourth Turning Clash of Inter-Civilization Cultures were first articulated in *The Philosophy of Commonsense*. (B. L. Clark, 2019b) The intent of the thesis presented here is to focus further research and development of specific aspects of the theory into a comprehensive explanation of why classical liberalism failed.

## Metaphysical Reality

There exists a metaphysical reality that includes a divine entity that created and ordered the cosmos and wrote rules, laws and knowledge of the reality into the hearts of all creation according to their understanding. This metaphysical reality informs common-sense and the natural moral law, from this reality flow the natural rights of life, liberty and property. Through revelations, logic, experience, wisdom and empiricism humans can know truths about both societal and transcendent order. (B. L. Clark, 2019b)

## Classical Liberalism Flawed at Origin

Classical liberal theorist assumed, almost unanimously that man was basically good. They acknowledged, for the most part, the existence of the natural moral. Without natural moral law and the propensity of most men most of the time to follow the law of conscience individual liberty cannot long exist in a society unchecked by civil law. Enlightenment thinkers ignored historical evidence and metaphysical facts that indicate that because man might know of the natural moral law they are under no compulsion to obey it and in practical application they are inclined to ignore it more than adhere to it. (B. L. Clark, 2019a)

## **Strauss-Howe Generational theory/Huntington Clash of Civilizations hypothesis Fusion**

The Strauss-Howe Fourth Turning Generational theory provides a workable explanation of cycles and trends since the Glorious Revolution, the beginning of classical liberal thought, that demonstrate a progressive shift from an acceptance of the metaphysical reality and toward nominalism and relativism. (Strauss & Howe, 2009)

Samuel Huntington's *Clash of Civilizations* hypothesis argues that humanity has not reached the end of history, a time posited by some when nation-states, international geopolitical arrangements and democratic principles would stabilize conflict and usher in a new era of progress and tranquility. Huntington argued that conflicts in a post-Cold War world would be centered on civilizations rather than ideology. (Huntington, 1993)

I contend that in the postmodern world, ideology, the progressivism of humanist liberal ideology, has given rise to new culture within an existing civilization. (Cropsey, Seth, Halem, 2018) These new cultures are competing for revolutionary change, rather than reformation. The vast gulf between the traditional and progressive liberal worldviews is so vast as to be irreconcilable without one replacing the other. (B. Clark, 2018) The *Clash of Civilization* Huntington foresaw is playing out amongst traditional civilizations, West-Sino, West-Islamic and among Liberal and traditional cultures within civilizations, conflicts that will potentially redefine the very nature of those civilizations.

## **Classical Liberalism to Authoritarianism**

Since 1848 the trend in the West has been toward greater degrees of democracy with notable examples of increases in totalitarianism and authoritarianism. However, this trend will not hold. America's own form of government radically changed in 1867. (B. Clark, 2016) In the last half-century, democracies across the West have demonstrated an increase in the role of government and an assault on the originally three accepted natural rights, life, liberty and property in order to enforce new concepts of liberalism. (Hoppe, 2018) These trends, must inevitably and logically end in authoritarianism.

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